

EPHT thinking/talking points

A statewide survey of local community health partners and citizens(2004) produced these priorities:

Priority environmental concerns—air quality (outdoor and indoor pollutants and forest fires), water (quality and quantity), heavy metals, pesticides, growth and development issues (car/air pollution, septic system contamination of ground and surface water).

Priority Health Effects---cancer, respiratory/lung disease, birth defects, asthma, cardiovascular disease.*

Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, 2006-2011

“Integrating and sharing these data (admin.data, including providers, insurers, hospitals, and local health depts..) would improve efforts to plan, evaluate, and craft cancer control policy. Data can help identify areas where greater efforts are needed, potential causes, and progress toward reducing cancer mortality. Access to complete, timely, and accurate cancer data is critical to our ability to evaluate progress toward comprehensive cancer prevention and control.”**

Summary of Needs and Recommendations EPHT initial program (2003-5)—

Data Integration---develop data standards and geospatial mapping capabilities, identify and enhance relevant data sets to allow *linkages of datasets* when relevant, *provide better access to data* so epidemiologists can examine relationships between health and the environment.

CDC's Tracking Program tracks environmental hazards and the possible related diseases.

Data to be used to identify populations at risk, establish potential relationships between environmental hazards and disease, and guide intervention and prevention strategies.

*FY2010 House Committee report: National Environmental and Health Outcome Tracking Network.-The World Health Organization estimates that 13 million deaths annually are due to preventable environmental causes. Chronic diseases such as asthma and cancer are among the most frequent adverse health effects of environmental hazards in the U.S. The Committee recognizes the important role of the Environmental and Health Outcome Tracking Network in understanding the relationship between environmental exposures and the incidence and distribution of disease, including potential health effects related to climate change. **Health tracking through the integration of environmental and health outcome data enables public health officials to better target preventive services so that health care providers can offer better care and the public will be able to develop a clear understanding of what is occurring in their communities and how overall health can be improved.***

*The Committee supports the continued development of the National Environmental and Health Outcome Tracking Network. With the increased resources provided in fiscal year 2009, five new grantees will be funded taking the total number of grants to 22. In fiscal year 2010, the Committee provides increased funding to enable at least one additional State to integrate environmental and health outcome data and participate in National Environmental and Health Outcome Tracking Network. **In awarding funds, the Committee encourages CDC to give preference to current and former grantees and States that have invested in health tracking infrastructure.***

Why EPHT for Montana???

Have healthier Montanans rather than sicker.

Reduce the costs of healthcare.

Develop prevention strategies, given that we are a state with numerous environmental hazards (economy of mining & agriculture, geology). What exposures are a concerns?

Hospital discharge data essential to make data complete. Other states have found a way to access this data while protecting privacy concerns.

Willing partners to data sharing agreements---Indian Health Service, VA

Need knowledge---help sooner rather than later, no more Libby's.

Increased federal money available to aid states in building capacity (i.e. IT).

FY2009 increase for Environmental Lab and assistance to states for tracking ("building capacity"), FY2010 another increase of about \$200, 000 in both areas.

*Our Montana Environment, Primer on Health & Environmental Determinants, 2005.

**Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, 2006-11, MT Cancer Control Coalition.